

3-23-2012

## The Bison, March 23, 2012

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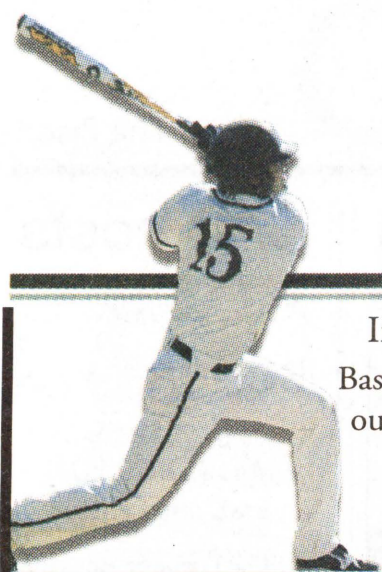
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In Sports:  
Baseball strikes  
out on home  
games.

SEE  
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A HARDING UNIVERSITY STUDENT PUBLICATION

# THE BISON

March 23, 2012

Vol. 87 No. 15

**"While some may argue that a free market is more beneficial to the world ... what type of person with a heart has the desire to wear an object that cost a life?"**

Amy Maré sheds light on diamond controversy SEE Page 3a

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soundtrack to Rascal Flatts, Emily  
Chaffin dishes out the info on  
upcoming albums.

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## A Night to Remember

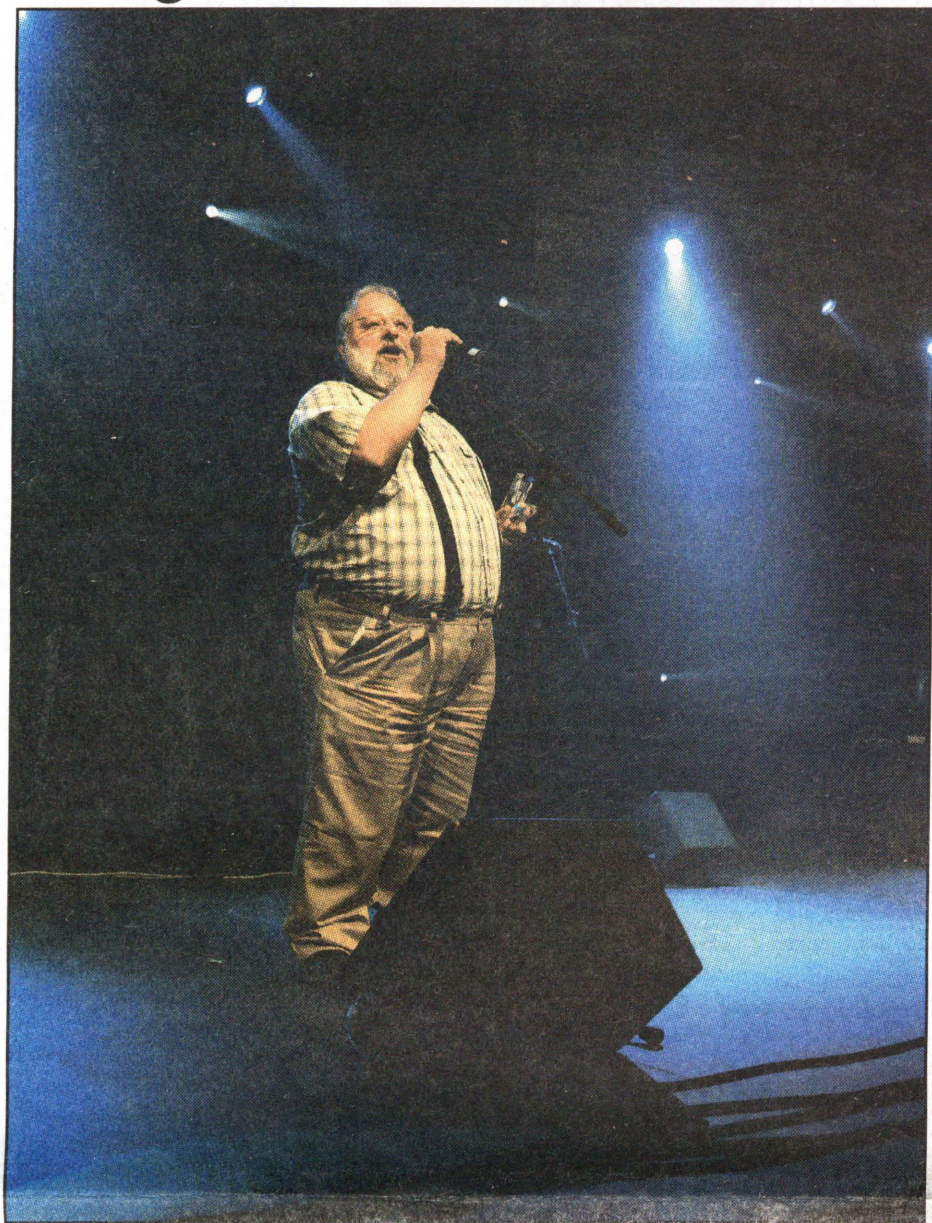


photo by CHANEY MITCHELL | The Bison

When service employee Philip Bright took the stage of the Administration Auditorium last Saturday night at the Burksy's to receive the Favorite Service Employee Award, the audience gave him a standing ovation. Bright's award was the last of 15 awards handed out that night as a part of the third annual Burksy's.

## 'Kony 2012' goes viral, stirs up controversy

by MADDI NELSON  
student writer

Since the 1980s, Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony has been allegedly abducting African children and forcing them into his Lord's Resistance Army, but many people were unaware of his existence until Invisible Children's "Kony 2012" video went viral on March 5.

In this 30-minute documentary, Invisible Children's founder Jason Russell introduces his organization's campaign to make Joseph Kony "famous" so the world can learn about his alleged crimes. In the video, he tells the story of his friendship with a Ugandan boy named Jacob, who spent much of his life fleeing the LRA; Russell said he promised Jacob that he would do whatever he could to help bring Kony to justice.

Sophomore Sabrina Ruiz said she thought the video was "very inspiring" and said she was encouraged by the way Russell is trying to keep his promise to Jacob.

"Many people would see what he's doing as very radical [and think], 'Oh, they're not going to accomplish anything,'" Ruiz said. "But he's accomplishing things, and now the message has reached all over the world."

The "Kony 2012" video has garnered more than 80 million

hits on YouTube within the past few weeks. But despite the campaign's overwhelming popularity, it has become the target of much criticism from within the blogosphere and news organizations such as The Huffington Post and Fox News.

Critics have claimed that Invisible Children exaggerates statistics in its documentaries and that it also misuses their funds. Invisible Children has been open about the fact that more of its budget is spent on advocacy and awareness than actual aid.

While freshman Hunter Beck said he would like for Invisible Children to realize that Kony is not "the biggest issue" facing Uganda right now, he said he was all for Invisible Children's move to raise awareness about Kony.

"Their main goal is raising awareness," Beck said. "I don't understand how people can make an issue about that when their goal is to bring the problem to light."

In addition, there have also been negative reactions from the Ugandan citizens, who claim the video exaggerates Kony's power and misrepresents what is happening in Uganda.

"There was a strong sense from the audience that the video was insensitive to African and Ugandan audiences and that it did not accurately portray the conflict or the

victims," Victor Ochen of the African Youth Initiative Network said in a statement released by the Associated Press. "In particular, viewers were outraged by the 'Kony 2012' campaign's strategy to make Kony famous and their marketing of items with his image."

According to the Associated Press' story on Foxnews.com, Ugandan officials claim Kony is no longer a threat to Uganda and has only a few hundred combatants across Central Africa.

"[The] misinterpretations of media content may lead some people to believe that the LRA is currently active in Uganda," said Fred Opolot, a Ugandan government spokesman to the AP. "They are a diminished and weakened group with numbers not exceeding 300."

Sophomore Cole Pearson said he thinks Invisible Children's focus should be on the children affected by Kony's armies rather than Kony himself.

"There are a lot of efforts going on to help recuperate some of the children [who were victims of Kony]," Pearson said. "I think we should put a lot more effort in that because ... that's what's going to make the difference in the end because he's going to go down eventually."

To view the video, visit [kony2012.com](http://kony2012.com).

## Chi Lambda Chi to disband by the end of semester

by ALEXIS HOSTIKA  
features editor

After only eight years of existence, the men's social club Chi Lambda Chi will officially disband itself on May 1.

"Chi Lambda Chi is primarily disbanding due to a prolonged issue with finding and securing a sponsor," said Nick Black, a graduate student who was president of the club last semester and who is still an active member of the club. "To clarify, we are dissolving our club. The administration is not disbanding us."

Chi Lambda Chi is currently working with an interim sponsor. Black said another reason the club is disbanding is to lighten the workload on officers. He said he and other club members were tired of dealing with the formalities that a social club requires.

"The amount of time that is now required to function as a social club at Harding also played an important role in our decision to dissolve," Black said. "Every club has a niche. Chi Lambda Chi's niche was to be a relaxed club that just wanted to hang out and have a good time. ... For us, it isn't worth documenting every detail of our club activities and seeking approval from the administration, when we could do it unofficially without all



photo by ASHEL PARSONS | The Bison

Chi Lambda Chi performs a cheer on Friday night of last fall's club week.

the administrative work."

Black said the bulk of the work included reporting any activities that the club partakes in together. He defined an activity as anything from a formal to more than five club members getting together to play basketball.

"We have to document any activity, who attends the activity, what will be done at the activity, how far away, and how much the activity will cost," Black said. "We must keep up with who is eligible to be active and who is not, who is studying abroad and who isn't.

Everything has to be reported, and for students with full time schedules, it's hard to do."

Assistant Dean of Students Kara Abston is helping take care of the formalities of dissolving the club, and she said that it was completely the decision of the club to dissolve. She said the club had no problems with the administration, disciplinary action or anything of the sort.

"They were trying to figure out their options, and the majority decided to sign a letter and officially dissolve the club beginning May 1," Abston said.

Senior Stephan Raab, also a club member, said Chi Lambda Chi had options to continue being active in social clubs, but would have had to merge their club with another.

"We decided we wanted to choose our legacy and end it how it's always been instead of being absorbed into another club," Raab said. "Basically, we wanted to keep the legacy of Chi Lambda Chi what it was."

Black said he is glad that he was part of a social club and that he did benefit from his experience in Chi Lambda Chi.

"I think the experience I had with social clubs is similar to the experience most everyone else has," Black said. "I grew closer to the members of my club, I made lifetime friendships and had quite honestly some of the best times of my life."

## Tickets on sale for Condoleezza Rice ASI lectureship

by J.M. ADKISON  
editor-in-chief

As the final speaker of the year in Harding University's American Studies Institute lectureship series, former Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice will be speaking to the faculty and student body and Searcy community from the Benson stage Thursday night, April 19, at 7:30. Tickets for the event went on sale March 12.

Rice's lecture is titled "Looking Back and Moving Forward for a Stronger America." She will be speaking on the major events that have impacted our world in the last decade, such as 9/11, the economic crash of 2008 and the

Arab Spring, and how they are influencing America's future, said Dr. Bob Reely, associate executive director of ASI.

"[Rice] will be answering how all of these events are mixing together, how they are blending together," Reely said. "[Rice herself] is a person of historical significance. We have big groups [from outside of Searcy] coming in to hear her speak. Many see her as a huge role model with all she has accomplished in her life and how she overcame a great deal to get where she is today."

Reely said students should definitely come to hear her speak, because unlike many speakers who come to Harding, Rice is not yet finished with her political career

and will still help shape America in the years to come.

"She isn't going anywhere," Reely said. "In a few years from now, when students are watching television with their children and Condoleezza Rice is on a news station commenting on some huge event, they will be able to say they listened to her speak in person."

Senior Bethany Chavez, student president of the ASI, said she admires Rice for her professional conduct in politics.

"I really admire Dr. Rice's class," Chavez said. "Unlike many people in politics, I have never heard her resort to yelling or name-calling when speaking with someone she disagrees with. The hostility

and meanness that characterizes much of today's political discourse is ridiculous, and we need more people like Dr. Rice who speak with intelligence and conviction."

Chavez said she will be at the dinner with the ASI prior to the lecture and she said she hopes to meet Rice in person.

"I hope to be able to speak with her during the dinner," Chavez said. "I'm afraid I might be too star-struck to say anything particularly deep, but I hope to let Dr. Rice know how much I admire her."

Senior Elinor Renner said she is excited to hear Rice speak not only because she is a history major and political science minor, but also because she is reading Rice's book

"Extraordinary Ordinary People: A Memoir of a Family" and because she admires her life story.

"This history major in me gets really excited, because I think she's such a good example of the American Dream," Renner said. "She grew up in such a hard environment, but then she went on to have a truly amazing career even before she became secretary of state."

Reely said he is expecting the Benson Auditorium to be packed when Rice speaks, so he suggested students arrive early for good seats. Students may get tickets free of charge at [hardingtickets.com](http://hardingtickets.com). The tickets will also be sold in the Benson lobby the night of the lecture.



## Pi Day festivities benefit math student in Zambia

by CHANEY MITCHELL  
asst. photographer

Harding University celebrated Pi Day, March 14, for the second time in school history, raising money to support a math student in Zambia.

Students and faculty of the math department said they met in February to start making plans for Pi Day 2012. Harding last celebrated Pi Day in 2008 when students first raised money to support a math student who is now a math teacher at George Benson Christian College in Zambia.

With hopes to support a second math student, the department made T-shirts designed by junior Ashley Paarlberg, which sold for \$10. According to Debbie Duke, math professor and coordinator of Pi Day, the tuition for the math student costs about \$1,700. Duke said she thinks the goal was met.

The night of March 13 students met Duke and Steve Smith, chair of the math department, to write pi in sidewalk chalk all over the campus sidewalks. Smith devised a path that started at the science building, led up the Benson steps, crossed the front of the Benson to the student center, took a left toward the American Heritage Center and on to the first gate, looping again around the American Heritage Center back up the path past the American Studies Building, cut in front of the bell tower to the Uncle Bud statue and ended in the fountain. The trail featured 2,520 accurate digits of pi.

Pi Day activities included giving pies to students and faculty in the lobby of the science building.

"We wanted to honor the students,"



photo by ASHEL PARSONS | The Bison

**Sophomore Payton Parsons treats Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Warren Casey to a whipped cream pie in the face as part of Pi Day 2012 festivities. The math department also sold T-shirts and held a 3.14K race to raise money to support a math student in Zambia.**

Duke said. "That wasn't a fundraiser; the purpose of that was to honor our students."

More than 200 pieces of various pies, from chocolate to apple to chess and moon pies, were served.

At 3:14 p.m. there was a 3.14K run along a path marked with chalk arrows and moon pie boxes leading runners and walkers around the "track" mapped out around the front lawn. The first three to finish the race received homemade pies of their choice and all who participated received a sticker with 3.14 written on it.

Following the race students had an opportunity to pie a professor of their choice in the face for the price of \$3. Chancellor Clifton Ganus L. Jr. was the first person to receive a pie to the face, but teachers from different departments came out to support.

"I am just glad it was whipped cream instead of shaving lather," Smith said.

A math contest was also conducted. Students who wanted to participate were provided with a sheet of either upper-level math problems or brainteasers that were returned Monday, and winners also received a homemade

pie of their choice.

The faculty of the math department provided 100 percent participation in some way, and many students helped and enjoyed the event, according to Duke and Smith.

"Pi Day was great for math-afficianados because it allowed us to display our love of math while raising funds for a great cause," junior Lucas Waddell said.

To completely explain and commemorate the day, Duke came up with a cheer: "Tangent, secant, cosine, sine 3.14159, Pi Day Pi Day Pi Day."

## Finishing strong



photo courtesy of J.D. YINGLING

**Terry Marlin, head of Fight DMD, his family and junior Sarah Hoffman (right), cross the finish line of the St. Patty's Day Race, which was held at Harding on Saturday, March 18. One hundred and twenty Harding students and community members along with their families participated in the race which, according to SA President Bruce McMullen, raised \$2,520 for Fight DMD and the Downtown Church of Christ's "Investing in the Journey Project."**

## Students to attend Southern Literary Festival in Nashville

by LEXI STUTZMAN  
news editor

A dozen Harding students will be attending the Southern Literary Festival at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., from March 29 through 31.

The Southern Literary Festival is a 75-year-old organization focused on celebrating the arts and encouraging college writers by sponsoring a region-wide Student Literary Competition, according to a letter from the festival directors. The festival also offers a variety of workshops with professional writers. This year's speakers include two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist Tina Howe, director of the Creative Writing Program at Vanderbilt Mark Jarman, five-time Eisner Award winner Eric Powell and author of the book "Fishboy" Mark Richard.

Associate Professor of English Terry Engel is one of the professors going to Nashville for the festival. Engel said approximately 11 or 12 Harding students, most of whom are English majors, will attend the event.

Engel said this will be

his first time attending the Southern Literary Festival, but he has been to many creative writing workshops and literary festivals before and has found attending such events to be a great opportunity for students to identify with other writers.

"It encourages a student to think of him- or herself as a writer, rather than a student," Engel said. "As writers we often toil away in privacy writing our stories and poems without a real sense of audience. When we attend festivals we are identifying ourselves as writers among other writers, and I think that change in perception helps us to take ourselves more seriously."

A major part of the festival is the Student Literary Competition, which drew in applicants from more than 40 Southern universities this year, according to Engel. Junior Barrett Smith said he received an honorable mention in the poetry category.

Smith said he was not aware that he received an honorable mention until a professor announced it in one of his classes, but he said he was thrilled by the news.

"Having my work compete and place against several other universities is really validating," Smith said. "Competition for creative writers is a lot tougher outside of Arkansas, where the arts aren't very emphasized, so being recognized on a larger scale is a huge honor."

Junior Josh Goslowsky said that aside from meeting other Southern student writers, he looks forward to speaking with writing professionals and learning about how they do what they do and how they got started.

As for the location, Goslowsky said he thinks students will find inspiration in this year's setting for the festival.

"Being from the Nashville area, I see it as kind of the Vatican of the South," Goslowsky said. "[It] is a beautiful city and it has so much inspiration. It seems like any area you go in Nashville, you're going to find little sects, little groups of culture. Nashville has such a wide variety of Christian culture as well as country music, blues and jazz ... there's beautiful things in the city that inspire people to write and inspire people to do great things."

## CAB hosts A.C.T.S. series

by HAZEL  
HALLIBURTON  
asst. copy editor

The Campus Activities Board will host its first A.C.T.S. lecture series starting on Monday, March 26, at 7 p.m. A.C.T.S., which stands for Arts, Culture and Technology Series, will consist of two separate lectures discussing topics that pertain to college students in today's culture.

The March 26 lecture will feature Dr. Donna Bowman, associate dean of the honors college at the University of Central Arkansas, who will speak on the topic of "Gun Cozies and Yarn Bombs-Making Fabric as a Political Act."

"It's about people who do traditional crafts and use those crafts for political messages," Bowman said. "I want to look back at the history of fabric making and why it's associated with women and look at the gendered history of fabric making. Making fabric and giving it a political meaning gives something material to the message. It's different, making something that connects it to history that you can see."

Bowman said the theme goes all the way back to historical times. She said she wants to show why the domestic arts were practiced by women and how people of the 20th century and 21st century used them in political form, which she refers to as "craftivism," often practiced by women in political demonstrations and protests targeting the corporate world and globalism.

Senior Alan Elrod, who works for CAB, said that A.C.T.S. was something CAB has been wanting to do for a while to help inspire college students.

"Our goal is to have something creative and interesting for students from people in the area," Elrod said. "We wanted something that would be different, expansive and interesting. We want it to be a celebration of ideas."

Elrod said he thought the lectures would possess much of the same feel and characteristics as TED Talk, a series of online lectures that focuses on technology, education and design. Elrod also said the lecture series will be held at Midnight Oil to help provide an environment and atmosphere that is open for conversation afterwards.

The second lecture in the series will be held on April 16, with Keith Crawford, founder of Arkansas Tweet Up and a collaborator of Refresh Central Arkansas, speaking.

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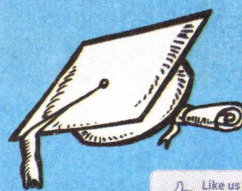
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At the Bison, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves.

We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, integrable manner.

If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the Bison staff, please e-mail John Mark Adkison, the editor-in-chief, at [jadkiso1@harding.edu](mailto:jadkiso1@harding.edu)

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## CAMPUS-WIDE

### 2012 Burksy's Winners

- **Most Awkward Freshman**  
Andrew Mauldin
- **Favorite Professor**  
Dr. Jim Miller
- **Favorite Dean**  
Dean Zach Neal
- **Favorite Social Club**  
Knights
- **Favorite Service Employee**  
Philip Bright
- **Favorite Athlete**  
Taryn Eubank
- **Favorite International Student**  
Rick Jane
- **Favorite Talent Group**  
Theatron
- **Favorite Organization**  
Smiles for Christ
- **Most Missed Overseas**  
Holly Bohnett
- **Favorite Admissions Counselor**  
Morris Seawel
- **Favorite Chapel Speaker**  
Michael Claxton
- **Favorite Bison Reporter**  
Marshall Hughes
- **Harding Award**  
Matt Flynn
- **Token Crip**  
Tim Cox

## The True Cost of Diamonds

amy maré



Guest Space

It's a perfect night on a beach in Florida. Trembling with nervousness, Aaron takes his girlfriend's hand in his own. It is Gabby's birthday, and Aaron hands her a cupcake. "Close your eyes and make a wish," he tells her. Aaron drops to one knee and starts speaking again. "I loved you yesterday, I love you today and I'll love you forever. Will you marry me?" After he asks for her hand in marriage, he places the 3-Carat princess cut diamond ring on her finger. She's awestruck at the beauty of the ring now on her left hand and wonders how much her fiancé had to pay for such a gorgeous stone.

Little does she know that the rock she is wearing cost not only \$6,000, but also the price of blood. Due to the horrible effects that conflict, or "blood" diamonds have on the lives of thousands of people, and the harmful events that surround their trade, no one should purchase these stones.

In African countries rebel forces have been raiding villages and homes, killing old or weak

people and infants, forcing young boys and men to become rebel soldiers, and requiring women and children to spend their days searching for diamonds in mining camps run by rebel leaders. People who try to escape these camps or try to hide a stone they have found are either shot instantly or have a hand cut off.

After receiving diamonds from the prisoners, the rebel leaders take the stones found and sell them at extremely high prices or trade them for guns, knives and other weapons to be used in armed conflict. The diamonds are illegally certified and later sent to sorting tables in peaceful countries such as France and England. By the time the stones reach those tables they are polished and indistinguishable, and no one takes the time to question where the diamond came from or how many people were hurt due to its existence.

After being sorted, the gems are distributed to factories where they are cut, set and sold to major jewelry companies all over the world. These stones end up on your fingers, around your neck, and on your ears. So much money is generated by the sale of conflict diamonds that, as stated in the 2006 movie "Blood Diamond," the purchase of these stones does not necessarily cause war in these countries, but it certainly pays to

keep it going. These wars have cost an estimated 3.7 million lives as a result of this heartbreaking means of trade.

While some may argue that a free market is more beneficial to the world and the diamond industry has no need for regulation, what type of person with a heart has the desire to wear an object that cost a life? Who would desire to own an object that caused a small child to lose her hand, and that even though it is so small, has had such an impact on the lives of so many people?

Martin Chungong Ayafor, chairman of the Sierra Leone Panel of Experts, said, "Diamonds are forever. However, lives are not. We must spare people the ordeal of war, mutilations and death for the sake of conflict diamonds." I urge you not to purchase such an object.

If you're going to buy a diamond, whether it be part of a necklace or the beautiful fixture in a ring, make sure that the stone you are buying is certified and that its origin can be traced back to the very piece of ground it came from. Make sure that you're paying for a stone and not for a life.

**AMY MARÉ is an asst. multimedia editor for the Bison. She may be contacted at [amare@harding.edu](mailto:amare@harding.edu).**

## Less Causes, More Progress

laura chambers



Guest Space

Supporting various humanitarian causes is a Harding rite of passage. Every semester we have the opportunity to donate a few dollars, buy a T-shirt or go without shoes for a day to raise awareness for different causes, but do we honestly care? Awareness campaigns go in and out of vogue within a matter of months, so many social issues are left unresolved and no true change occurs.

This type of fickle support for social issues reminds me of the lyrics to "Dreaming of Peace" by singer/songwriters Jenny & Tyler. In this song, Jenny sings, "Show the world that we're aware/But we're not going anywhere./I can't remember which petition I signed/But I sleep pretty well each night/ Knowing that I've done my share in showing everyone I care."

I am not advocating that we give up awareness campaigns, because we must be informed of issues in order to solve them. However,

what if each of us dedicated an entire semester or school year to one cause? Rather than becoming superficially involved in multiple issues, we should focus on one topic and work to solve it until the job is done.

Most of the world's most revered social activists became popular not because they casually dabbled in multiple issues. Instead, they devoted their lives to one cause and worked until the issue was solved or they died. Susan B. Anthony, Booker T. Washington, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mother Teresa changed the world because they were passionate about their individual cause and they allowed their lives to be consumed by it.

Imagine the good that could be accomplished if all 7,155 Harding students dedicated themselves to a specific cause for an extended amount of time. If we each used our interests and skillsets to benefit the local and global communities for months or even years, we could be true agents of change. We would go through the whole process of identifying a need, creating a solution, implementing the change and solving the problem.

Use the rest of this semester to discover the issue that inspires you to action. Perhaps you will

**If we each used our interests and skillsets to benefit the local and global communities for months or even years, we could be true agents of change.**

participate in a service project with your social club or with a group during the Bisons for Christ Day of Service, and you decide to continue that project later. Maybe you read a news article about child slavery in Ghana and you organize several mission trips to free those slaves. Never settle for the complacent satisfaction of only buying a T-shirt or changing your Facebook profile picture for a week. Do not allow yourself to merely be aware of many issues. Focus on one and witness the massive change you can create.

**LAURA CHAMBERS is a guest contributor for the Bison. She may be contacted at [lcambe2@harding.edu](mailto:lcambe2@harding.edu).**

payton hurst



Wise and Otherwise

## Better Than Average

As a quick disclaimer before you read this: I began writing this article in the wee hours of the night when my brain begins failing to make the distinction between deeply philosophical and utterly insane. Also, this article may seem slightly depressing at first, but I promise it gets better.

I really don't mean to be a downer, but I have been troubled by something lately that I can't seem to shake. Naturally I figured everyone else would want to read about it. The problem is, it seems for the past 21 years I've been living a life of average. You might say to yourself, "Well, that's not so bad, average is still pretty good. I mean, it is better than just plain bad." In one sense, I suppose you would be right. Quite literally, average means greater than anything below average. But in reality, is average actually a good thing?

When I say I live an average life, I mean almost every quality I possess is pretty average. I'm decently smart, I'm an OK writer and can sort of carry a tune. I'm decently athletic and I am in pretty good shape. The list goes on and on. In the eyes of the world, people would probably say I'm doing all right. And for the record, I am completely happy with the way my life has gone up until this point. But I'm beginning to wonder if being happy with average is not the way we are meant to be.

You see, from the moment all of us were conceived, our parents had the greatest expectations for us. From the day of our birth we were told we had the world at our fingertips and that we could be anything we wanted to be, and we were encouraged to be the best we could. Low and behold, all of these things are actually the truth.

The problem is, somewhere along the way we stop believing those ideas. I'm not sure when the exact turning point is, but eventually the world begins to squash our childlike wonderment of the world's opportunities for us. Many of us begin to believe that being the best isn't possible, and therefore being average is the only alternative.

So, "What's the point?", you may ask, and it's a valid question. Chances are you have thought of these things before, and you haven't come up with a solution yet. If you did, you need to hurry up and write a self-help book and cash in on it before all the good ones are written.

Now, this is not to say if you are not the best that you are failing. Obviously not every person in the world can be the greatest at something. All I am saying is if you are settling for an average life, you may be failing to reach your potential.

All that being said, my words so far do present a problem you may not have noticed. You see, by staying up late at night, thinking about being average and writing about it, I'm only making my situation worse. This is the fuel for my average fire, and we all do it. We sit around and think about how we wish things were different and then don't change a thing. It would be so much more productive for me to just close my computer, get a good night's sleep and focus on making tomorrow the best day of my life.

Somewhere in history mankind got the idea that contemplating your problems was accomplishing something, but we all know it isn't. So let me be your motivational speaker via newspaper. Take today and run with it. You are already awake (at least partially), and you already have all the tools you need to make today an above-average day, so simply put them to use.

**PAYTON HURST is the opinions editor for the Bison. He may be contacted at [phurst@harding.edu](mailto:phurst@harding.edu). Twitter: @phurstplace**



j.m. adkison



If I  
Ruled  
The  
World

## Christians Are Meant to Be Weird

If I ruled the world, I would totally remodel the external image of the “perfect Christian.” You are probably going to ask, but of all the social, political, economic, environmental, socio-economic, cultural and mental issues of our world, why would I choose to focus on that issue? And then you may ask, is it even an issue? Well, it is an issue, maybe not a monstrous one that could end the world, but something we Harding students can relate to.

From the time of infancy, when our mothers strapped us up in cute red suspenders or in big, hideous bows (or both in some cases), we are conditioned to keep up appearances. Being a perfect Christian in the United States of the Bible Belt means having a certain look, style and smile. Take a minute and just think to yourself, what is the perfect Christian supposed to look like? If you are like me, then the first images that slide into your head are the models from Christianmingle.com (not that I have an account on that website or am trying to find my soul mate via blind Internet dating or anything ...).

But look at the model couples on Christianmingle.com. They are all pretty, skinny and absolutely perfect because they have completed the only initiative in life that matters for many of us: marriage. Churchofchristingles.com is guilty of the same advertising fallacy, as are Bigchurch.com, Christiansingles.com, Christiancupid.com, Christiancafe.com and Catholicmatch.com (these are all real).

Does it bother anyone else that we have this Sunday Service Barbie and Bible Study Ken mindset on what a “perfect Christian” looks like?

Christians, in my opinion, are supposed to be anything but cookie-cutter clones with straight and glamorous hair, celebrity physique and omnipresent smiles, wielding Bibles and donning cross necklaces. I am not in the least against looking your best for Sunday service or just any day in general, but looking like a GQ model or Miss America contender has nothing to do with being a perfect Christian.

God built us to be so radically different from each other that it should be like looking down at a spinning kaleidoscope of diverse appearances, personalities, cultures and emotions when we see humanity.

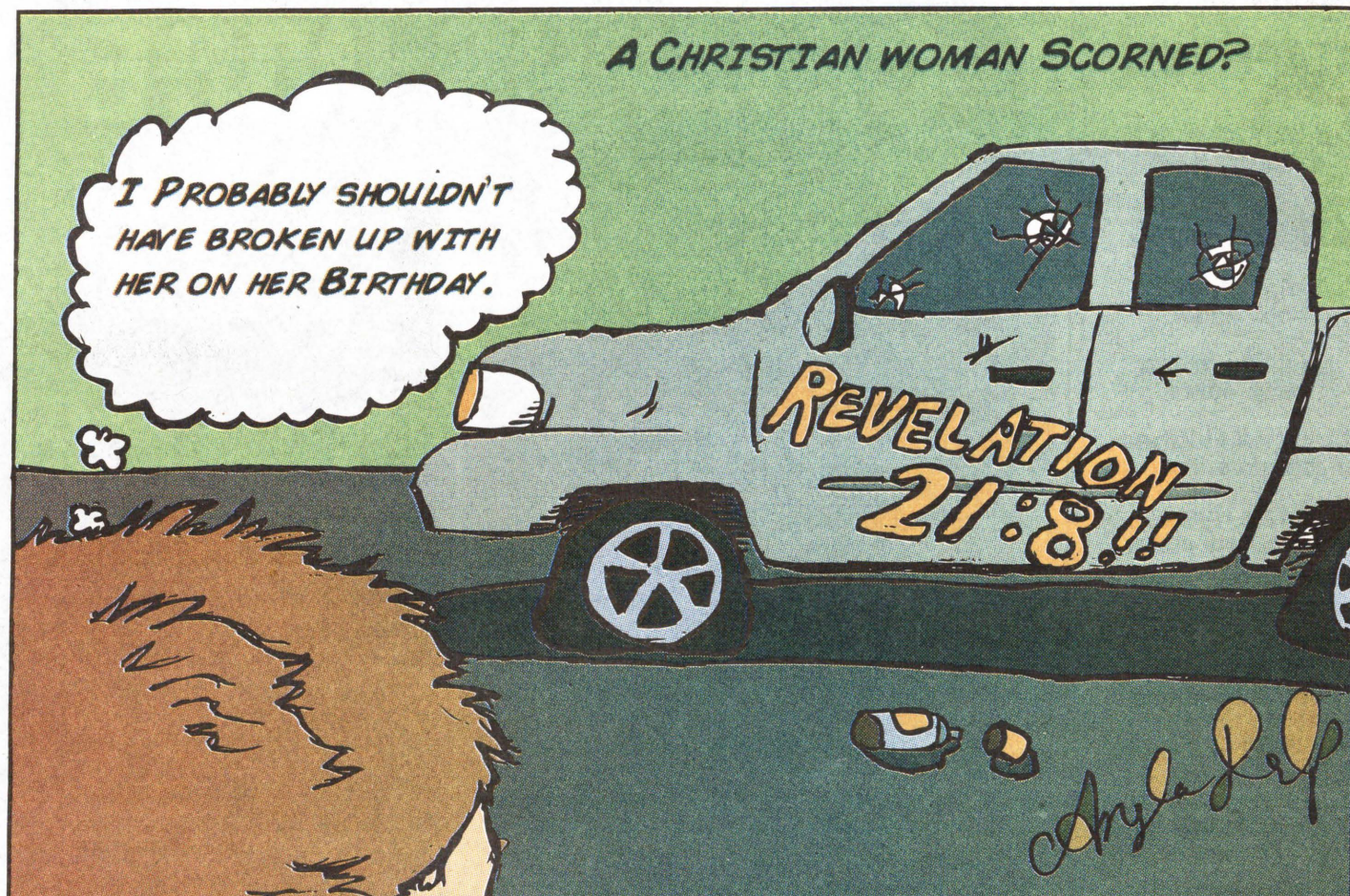
As Christians, we are supposed to be weird. We are supposed to stand out from the rest of the world because we don't put our faith in appearances and propaganda. In real life, Christianity is a mad, messy easel painted with Chaco hippies, starving artists, fire jugglers, yoga lovers, skater boys, football jocks, re-enactment Civil War soldiers, Young Republicans, Broadway hopefuls, Dungeons & Dragons addicts and shuffleboard Olympians.

If God wanted a world perfectly ordered according to Western culture, he would have just created Barbie's dream house in space.

We think we should all be striving for perfection in our quest to be Christ-like. And we are horrendously guilty of trying to cover up our imperfections with happy smiles and overpriced clothing. But being Christ-like is not about having the super-successful career, well-manicured front lawn, drop-dead-gorgeous spouse and Hallmark card family.

The only image of perfection, of being Christ-like, that should matter is that of a person kneeling at the foot of the cross, whether he or she is wearing Gucci or Goodwill.

**J.M. ADKISON** is the editor-in-chief for the *Bison*. He may be contacted at [jadkiso1@harding.edu](mailto:jadkiso1@harding.edu).



## Staying Pure in Warmer Weather

trinity baker



Guest  
Space

When I first transferred to Harding University from my last state college, I accepted that some things would have to change about my previous behavior. I would have to conform to curfew rules, attend chapel, go to Bible class (or class in general), and I would have to allow myself to abide by what I originally thought of as a strict set of rules. I was fine with this, though, and in time I have come not only to survive in Harding's environment but indeed to thrive here. I've learned more about my place in God's Kingdom, my role as

a follower of Christ, and the commandments that have been presented to me by the entirety of the Bible.

One thing, though, has always been hard for me, and I'm sure it always will be. Lusting is the sin that most men suffer from, and I am most certainly no exception. It's easy to get caught up in day-to-day life and not pay attention to my own stares and glances at things that I probably shouldn't be staring or glancing at.

**So please, live beyond the dress code. Don't let myself and the other people of this campus fall short of the purity that we ourselves must maintain.**

With that in mind, I'm most certainly happy that spring is back. This yearly cycle brings about the return of warm weather and outdoor activities, many of which I participate in myself. Something that it brings back that I don't enjoy, though, is the clothing of the Harding students. You see, when I transferred here, I had hoped that the dress code would have people covering up more than they do in public colleges. Unfortunately, it hasn't. People here at Harding, and especially girls, are not only showing off the same amount, but in some cases are showing off more skin than I saw in public colleges.

My own fellow sisters in Christ, the ones I had hoped wouldn't do anything to harm their fellow brothers, seem to be either ignorant or embracing of their male counterpart's problems. I write this article not to condemn any of you but

instead to plea that you cover up. Why, oh why, must I walk through the front lawn every year and see countless Harding women showing too much leg, too much shoulder, too much cleavage and too much back?

So, please, students of Harding, live beyond the dress code. Don't let myself and the other people of this campus fall short of the purity that we ourselves must maintain. Don't let the cultural epidemic of baring skin for the world to see become any more implanted here at Harding. Don't let another man fall and stumble so that you can look “cute” or “pretty.” Trust me, you are much more beautiful with your skin covered, just as God intended.

**TRINITY BAKER** is a guest contributor for the *Bison*. He may be contacted at [tbaker2@harding.edu](mailto:tbaker2@harding.edu).

Just the  
Clax

## Seeing Red



michael  
claxton

I'm sorry I missed the Burksy's. I was in Little Rock Saturday night, though rumor has it that I wasn't entirely absent from the third annual awards festivities. It seems that the SA hired a Clax stand-in to whip up the crowd, which — truth be told — probably worked better than booking the original. As Dr. David B. Burks told me, “He held up a paper mustache and talked. He went on and on.”

Yep — sounds like a spot-on impression. I would have gladly attended, but at the last minute I had the chance for a nostalgic evening at Murry's Dinner Playhouse, where I, too, saw an impressionist. Tom Mullica is a magician and comic who has spent the last decade perfecting a tribute to his idol, one of the most beloved comedians of the last century. Red Skelton (1913-1997) is sadly no longer a household name, but if you ask anyone who grew up watching TV between 1951 and 1971, I'll bet he or she will remember Red with a smile.

The audience at Murry's was packed with folks of that vintage and older, prompting Mullica to quip that he had stumbled into an AARP meeting. The youngest person there was an expressionless teenager whose grandparents had apparently dragged her to Little Rock and — surely this qualifies as child abuse — made her put up her phone. I suspect she'll start speaking to them again sometime in late June.

**While my peers were rocking to Whitesnake and U2, I was watching a 74-year-old clown ham it up for two delightful hours.**

But the rest of us had a grand time, laughing with reckless abandon at Mullica's dead-on imitations. He skillfully mimicked Skelton's slapstick pantomimes and unabashedly corny material — “Did you hear about the two antennas that got married? The wedding was a bust, but the reception was great.”

Where do I begin to describe Red Skelton? He called himself “One of America's Clowns,” and few could match his combination of gentle humor, physical comedy and quirky characters. A brilliant sketch comic decades before “Saturday Night Live,” he created such lovable goofs as Freddie the Freeloader, the bumbling Clem Kadiddlehopper and San Fernando Red, a shady politician who never met a taxpayer he didn't like.

A redhead like Lucille Ball, Skelton gave Lucy permission to adapt his signature sketch to her own comedy style. Playing a spokesman for Guzzler's Gin who had to drink the product on the air, Skelton would pretend to get a little more sloshed with each commercial take. Later, Lucy created a hit with her tipsy promo for the juiced-up medicine Vitameatavegamin. The more she drank it, the harder it became to pronounce. Check them both out on YouTube.

Skelton was a master at ad-libbing. I once met one of the writers on his show — Bob Orben — who related this story from the days of live TV. Red was doing his opening monologue one night when he swallowed a

fly. He started choking and called for water. Things turned into pandemonium backstage, as everyone fell over each other trying to find a glass. After a long pause, Red said, “Aw forget it — let him walk down.”

He appeared in more than 30 films and gave hundreds of live performances. Flashback to April 4, 1987. As a teenager I went with one of my best friends to see Red at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. It wasn't the typical teen concert. While my peers were rocking to Whitesnake and U2, I was watching a 74-year-old clown ham it up for two delightful hours. After the show we and a few other fans hung around the backstage door for over an hour. As a reward for our patience, we were ushered in one at a time to Mr. Skelton's dressing room, where the old pro was cooling down in sweatpants and chewing a big cigar. As he signed our programs, I thanked him for the show and said, “You're the best!” Humbly pointing above, he corrected me: “Well, second best.”

As the crowd shuffled out the door after last Saturday's show, Tom Mullica greeted each guest. Many thanked him for keeping Red Skelton's memory alive. For old time's sake, I hung around at the end of the line for an autograph.

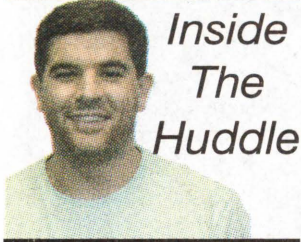
Fast forward to 2057. You're working a Sudoku while your spouse is turning up the volume on the TV for the fourth time. “Hey! Guess what,” your beloved shouts from the living room. “Tina Fey is coming to Branson this week!” Your granddaughter barely glances up from her digital homework: “Who's Tina Fey? She sounds gross.”

You won't know where to begin.

**MICHAEL CLAXTON** is a guest contributor for the *Bison*. He may be contacted at [mclaxto1@harding.edu](mailto:mclaxto1@harding.edu).



Marshall Hughes



*Inside  
The  
Huddle*

## Seeing the value in Manning

I can only imagine what it feels like to be the biggest NFL free agent in history and have teams slobbering all over me and throwing millions my way. Which team do I choose? What a dilemma! This is the scenario that Peyton Manning was stuck with once the Indianapolis Colts decided to part ways with him.

Why would any team be interested in a 36-year-old quarterback who has undergone four neck surgeries in the past year and whose future is questionable? He has not played in a game since January 2011. They are interested because he is an 11-time pro-bowler, a six-time AFC player of the year, a Super Bowl winner and MVP, and a certain first-round future hall of famer. Peyton Manning is the best of his generation and the opportunity to build a team around a player of this caliber does not come around very often.

John Elway understood this. He was the player of his generation. The Denver Hall of Fame quarterback and current general manager of the Broncos knows what it takes to build a winning team. He wooed Manning and was able to sell the Mile High City and the Broncos to the former Colts quarterback.

Elway believes that Manning can take the team to the highest level. He did not have that confidence in his old quarterback, Tim Tebow.

Elway understood that he would have a big problem letting go of Tim. Tebowmania is a strong force in the Rocky Mountain state, and Elway gambled that signing a player of Manning's magnitude would get him off the hook.

There is no denying that Tebow energized the Bronco team and took them to the playoffs. Elway admired him for that but still believed that Tebow lacked the fundamentals that he believed were necessary to perform at a higher level in the NFL.

Tebow is more of a personality than a player, and Manning has the ability to transform 52 players into players at their highest level.

Manning's decision was not about the money. Bud Adams, owner of the Tennessee Titans, would have met or exceeded Denver's offer. Peyton had to feel comfortable with his new team, and Elway understood that. Elway connects with Manning in their similar circumstances.

He won two Super Bowls at ages 37 and 38 and understands the difficulties Peyton will face in preparing himself for playing at the highest level.

Elway will serve more as a peer for Manning than a boss. He will be happy to sit back and let Peyton do his thing. He has total confidence in him.

With Tebow on the Jets, Rex Ryan may learn to control his tongue a little better.

If not, their lockerroom interactions might be just a little awkward.

**MARSHALL HUGHES** is the sports editor for the 2011-2012 Bison. He may be contacted at [jhughes3@harding.edu](mailto:jhughes3@harding.edu). Twitter: @marshallhughes

## Baseball fights home slump

by **MARSHALL HUGHES**  
sports editor

The Bison baseball team lost a home series against East Central University last weekend in Great American Conference play.

Coming into the series, the 30th-ranked Bisons had won three of their last four home games and were 15-3 at home.

East Central had won only nine games last season but had turned things around this season with a 14-11 overall record before visiting Jerry Moore Field. Head coach Patrick McGaha said that although he believes East Central is a better team than it used to be, the Bisons did not play as they should have.

"ECU is a completely different team than they were last season," McGaha said. "They are much improved, but we just didn't take advantage of offensive opportunities when we had them. We didn't get the timely hits that we needed to win the series."

While the Bisons rank last in the conference with a .264 batting average, the Tigers rank second in conference with a .304 average. Harding and East Central had previously met 21 times with the Bisons leading the series 12-9.

The doubleheader on Saturday ended in a split. Harding came away with a 1-0 win in game one.

In a battle coming down

to the bottom of the ninth, junior Billy Ninemire hit a single to right field, allowing senior Chase Presley, who had walked, to score the winning single run. The winning relief pitcher was sophomore Cameron Walker. Starting pitcher junior Logan Holthaus earned a no decision.

"I feel like I came in and did my job in that situation," Walker said. "Also, I felt that Logan Holthaus had his best outing of this season and deserved the win, but sometimes that's just how baseball works."

Game two saw the Bisons battling from 3-0 and 5-3 deficits. In the bottom of the fifth, sophomore Matt Calhoun tied the game with a two-run homerun. East Central went ahead 6-5 in the seventh inning with a solo homerun. The Bisons put the tying run on base in the bottom of the seventh, but the runner was stranded when the inning ended.

Relief pitcher freshman Andrew Fiddler gave up only one hit (a homerun) and took the loss. Juniors Kyle Atkins and Jeremy Bohnett and sophomore Chris Hardey each had two hits in the game. McGaha said he recognizes that there are currently problems with batting, but that he believes these issues should be short-lived.

"We are struggling a little at the plate," McGaha said. "We have some guys that are not performing to their capabilities, and we have some guys injured right now. We



photo by ASHEL PARSONS | The Bison  
Junior center fielder Kyle Atkins sprints down the third base line. Atkins is one of the fastest players on the team with 20 stolen bases so far this season.

have good hitters on this team, so I'm confident the offense will come around soon. I believe our best baseball is still ahead of us. We just have to remain positive and keep working hard."

The Bisons and Tigers met for game three on Sunday afternoon when East Central defeated Harding

5-2 to take the series. East Central (17-12, 5-3 GAC) took a 3-1 lead in the top of the fifth. Harding (18-8, 3-3 GAC) loaded the bases in the bottom of the fifth with no outs but came away with only one run. The Tigers scored two more runs in the ninth inning off of Harding reliever sophomore Bronson

Smith. Starting pitcher junior Lucas Waddell took the loss. Atkins and senior Anthony Guglielmi each had two hits.

The game against University of Arkansas at Monticello was rained out on Wednesday. The team will travel to Magnolia for a three-game series against Southern Arkansas University next weekend.



photo by ASHEL PARSONS | The Bison  
Junior Becca Godman takes a swing at a fall practice.

## Golf teams sit in middle of standings as season closes

by **LANEIGH PFALSER**  
student writer

Men's and women's golf teams competed at the Christian Brothers University Spring Invitational in Memphis, Tenn., and the Texoma Chevy Dealers Lion in Commerce, Texas, respectively, on March 12-13. The men's team finished sixth place out of 11 teams and the women's team finished 10th place out of 20.

While both teams said they recognize the need for improvement, both are hopeful that rankings will increase during conference play. Women's coach Nicky Boyd said that some players, such as freshman Emily Plyler, are able to play in difficult situations, and might be able to help the team in the future.

"Emily Plyler played great under the tough conditions," Boyd said. "The course was set up extremely tough so it was really hard to shoot any low scores."

At a tournament in Commerce, Texas, Junior Becca Godman said the course was hard and chipped easily due to the weather.

"It had rained for four days, so it was

really muddy," Godman said. "You were hitting from mud onto concrete and it was really difficult."

The women's team traveled with only four players instead of the requisite five, so they were not able to take four out of the five best scores — each of their scores counted.

The men also encountered problems with their tournament last week in Memphis, Tenn, but men's coach Dustin Howell said that he is proud of the way the team played given the difficulty of the course.

"While we had a bad start in poor weather conditions in round one, the guys rallied back for a good showing in round two and allowed us to move up the board for a good finish," men's coach Dustin Howell said.

Junior Ryan Hadash said the team is striving to prepare for conference play.

"The team overall has been doing OK, but we have the potential to do better," Hadash said. "We are all working together to improve our games and to get in the best possible position for conference, where it counts."

Godman said the team is "rusty" because of winter break and needs to improve.

"We know it is not too late to turn this OK season into a great season," Hadash said.

## Frisbee wipes out opponents

by **PAYTON HURST**  
opinions editor

Although Harding's Ultimate Frisbee team, HU Apocalypse, is not officially affiliated with the university's sports program, it has been competitive in tournaments across the United States. While HU Apocalypse bears the Harding name, the team is actually self-supported and does not receive funding from the university.

The team competes in tournaments across the country as members of USA Ultimate, an official Ultimate Frisbee league. Apocalypse is a member of the South Central Region in Division III. This year Apocalypse has participated in eight tournaments, and is currently ranked 61st overall by the USA Ultimate website and is third in Division III in the nation and first in the region.

"Thankfully for us, other teams in our region seem to be down this year while we have arguably the best team we've ever had," senior captain Ryan Rummage said. "We can't get ahead of ourselves, but if we play like we have so far this semester, we should win the region tournament and advance to nationals."

Apocalypse has competed in three tournaments this semester and is scheduled to play in two more before the semester is over. In its last tournament, Apocalypse defeated teams like the University of Oklahoma and the University of Central Arkansas.

The team finished second after losing to Texas A&M University 13-7 in the final

game, according to [usultimate.org](http://usultimate.org).

Apocalypse has played hard in every tournament it has participated in this year, defeating Division I schools such as The University of Alabama, Louisiana State University, and Oklahoma State University. Apocalypse members' outstanding tournament play has earned them the No. 2 ranking in their division and a spot in the Regional tournament in April. A three-year veteran on Apocalypse, junior Nick Doores, said he feels strongly about the team's chances in the Regional Tournament.

"We feel that we are very likely to win the tournament because of our record against Division I-level teams," Doores said. "However, there are always teams that will make us work hard. We don't consider winning a sure thing."

The team is led by Rummage, senior Taren Goins, and junior Tucker Bankston.

These captains act as playing coaches as well.

Depending on how Apocalypse does in the regional tournament, it could get a chance to play in the USA Ultimate National Tournament in Appleton, Wis., this summer. Last year, the Apocalypse made it to the National Tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., and placed seventh.

Up next for Apocalypse is the Huck Finn Tournament in Missouri, which will be important in the ranking for the Regional Tournament.

"If we play like we can, I think we can make a strong run at the national championship," Rummage said.



# Lady Bisons Basketball comes oh so close

by MARSHALL HUGHES  
sports editor

The Harding women's basketball team traveled to Bartlesville, Okla., to compete in the Great American Conference Tournament from March 2-4. This was the Lady Bisons' sixth straight appearance in postseason play. They entered the tournament with a 16-10 overall record and a 9-7 conference record, placing the team at fourth seed.

Harding finished the regular season with first-place rankings in three categories — scoring defense, field goal percentage defense and blocked shots. Lady Bisons' head coach Tim Kirby said the team arrived in Bartlesville with high expectations.

"We came in to the tournament as a No. 4 seed and played our way to the championship game," Kirby said. "From the time we arrived on Wednesday night to the championship game on Sunday afternoon, the girls were excited and focused on accomplishing our goal of winning the tournament. We had some great individual performances, and our team responded to the tournament atmosphere in a great way."

Harding's first game of the tournament was a matchup with a familiar foe — Henderson State University. The Lady Reddies, a fifth seed team, had previously beaten the Lady Bisons in their last three meetings. Harding came away in the first round of the tournament with a 78-52 win over Henderson State. The Bisons went into halftime with a 40-20 lead and led by as many as 28 points in the second half. Freshman Arielle Saunders led the scoring with 20 points. Leading scorers

included freshman Tabitha Haney (13), sophomore Kristen Celsor (12), senior Kallie Bartee (11), freshman Montana Lewis (10) and senior Cherilyn McMenamy (10).

"I don't feel like I scored much during the tournament," Celsor said. "But I loved that our seniors ended their college careers with amazing games. Cherilyn really went off, and Kallie knocked down some major 3 for us. Arielle also played some great games. She not only did great offensively, but really made some major plays on the defensive end that got us to that championship game. So every game was really about how well the team as a whole played."

Advancing to round two of the tournament, Harding faced Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The Bisons battled to a 62-54 victory, sending them to the GAC championship game. Saunders had a career high 21 points and 17 rebounds. Southeast Oklahoma (11-17), the eighth seed team, had pulled off a surprising upset over the No. 1 seed team, Arkansas Tech University. The Savage Storm was leading 43-39 with 8:47 left in the game, but the Lady Bisons came back with a 9-0 run. With a little more than two minutes remaining, Bartee drained her third 3-pointer that led to a 7-0 run putting Harding up for good. Leading scorers were McMenamy (16), Lewis (9) and Celsor (7).

Playing in only their second tournament championship game in school history, Harding faced Southwestern Oklahoma State and lost 69-58. The Lady Bisons jumped out to an early 14-5 lead, but the Lady Bulldogs (20-9) answered with a 16-3 run over the next six minutes and went into the half with a



photo by ASHEL PARSONS | The Bison

Freshman guard Montana Lewis led the Lady Bisons in steals, assists and rebounds in the GAC Tournament against Henderson State on March 2.

36-26 lead. Scoring the first six points of the second half put Southwestern Oklahoma up by 16. Harding battled back to within nine points but could not take the lead. Leading scorers were Saunders (19) and Celsor (11). Saunders and McMenamy were named to the Great American Conference All-Tournament Team. Members of the Lady Bisons' team, like Bartee, said they were disappointed in the loss, but that it was still a major accom-

plishment for the team to get as far as it did.

"There was a definite sadness, but there was also a sense of pride for all we had accomplished this season," Bartee said. "We have a lot of young players that will more than likely be back to that game and getting through all those emotions was important for them."

The Lady Bisons finished the season with an overall record of 18-11.

## Coach Odie Guzman Q&A

Former Harding soccer player returns to coach the Bisons men's soccer team after spending two years on staff at Lubbock Christian University

by LYNDSEY RUBLE  
editorial asst.

**Q: What was your No. 1 reason to return to Harding?**

A: I graduated from here and I absolutely had a blast the four years I was here. Searcy is a special place. Everyone is kind, and I like to be in a small environment where everyone knows each other. Harding was also my dream job, to be honest. I was hoping I could end up back here when I was 50 and retire out here, but I guess things changed and God had a different plan.

**Q: How has your work at Lubbock Christian University prepared you to coach the Harding men's team?**

A: I learned a lot there, especially from the head coach, Kyle Beard. He was a good mentor for a lot of the guys there. A few things I picked up is trying to nurture these players' spiritual lives and academically creating the right environment to succeed. The biggest thing is realizing that the sport is only for a short period of time. Not a lot of them are going to be professionals, so they need to start thinking about their career. That's the biggest thing I learned from coaching — how to prepare these guys and mold them into the men they will be when they start graduating.

**Q: How are you diving into the recruiting process?**

A: I am a recruiting machine. I love going out and finding new players. My favorite part of this job is finding those players that are diamonds in the rough. What I mean by that is players who have been overlooked and, to be honest, I was one of those players. I think those players actually bring a lot more to the table when they realize that they have potential.

**Q: What is your vision for Harding's men's team?**

A: First and foremost, I want these guys to grow into the Christian men that Harding expects, which are providers for their family, ambassadors for the school and representatives



photo by ASHEL PARSONS | The Bison

Harding Alum Odie Guzman (center) is the new head coach of the men's soccer team.

of God. That's where I judge success. Not only can I make an impact in sports, but also in the players' lives. And of course, athletics comes into play. I want to be nationally competitive, and I want us to be a soccer power house in the next couple years. With the players that I have at the moment, they are

going to be setting the bar high for years to come.

**Q: How is switching to the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association going to challenge and benefit the team?**

A: It will definitely challenge our team with the caliber of other teams that are currently in the conference. It will benefit our guys by seeing what the next level is. That's where I want my team to reach — the next level — and not only competing at that level but being successful. The teams that are there will be testing us week in and week out, but from there we can only get better.

**Q: What has it been like to work alongside your former coach, Coach Greg Harris?**

A: It's been good. He is one of the reasons I am confident to be in this position. He helps me with basically everything. He was my mentor when I was a player, and he is the coach that I want to be. He does such a great job of keeping up with his players and mentoring and he always wants to help out. If I have any questions, he stops what he is doing and makes sure I understand. He is the one teaching me the ropes around here.

**Q: Would you say that it is an advantage that you came in before the start of the season? How are you using this time to work with your team?**

A: Yes, it's a huge advantage. I can work with the players in offseason. In these months, they can start to understand what I want to work on for this next season. We're already in the middle of working on what I expect from them. I get to know the players, and then I can start installing the skills that I want them to start growing and sharpening. It's tough to come in during the summer and not know who your players are or what they need to work on. So, this just gives me insight into each of the players' skills and weaknesses so we can start working on team chemistry going into preseason.

## LOCKERTALK

Our Athletes' View  
on Pop Culture

### questions

**March Madness team that ruined your bracket**

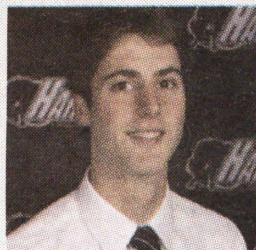
**TV show you always watch**

**Tim Tebow should \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Your fast food go to:**

**The Masters is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Lucas Waddell  
(Baseball)



St. Bonaventure

Storage Wars

Enjoy the change  
in scenery

Wendy's

The Masters are\*

Emily Plyler  
(Golf)



Missouri and Duke  
upsets

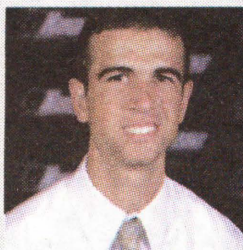
Grey's Anatomy/  
Private Practice

Not have as much  
fame as he does

Chick-fil-A

The week I look  
forward to the most

Andrew Evans  
(Track)



UConn

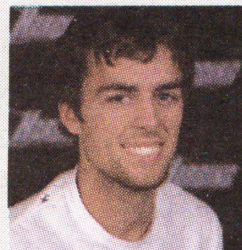
NCIS

Become interim  
coach for the  
Saints

Anywhere is better  
than the caf

A tradition like  
no other

Adam Edwards  
(Tennis)



Mizzou

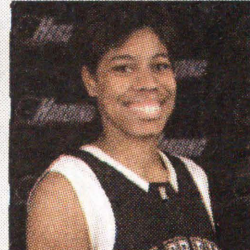
ESPN

Have gone to the  
49ers

Wendy's

The best golf  
tournament ever

Sierra Rollins  
(Basketball)



Mizzou-Norfolk  
Game!!!

Family Guy/  
Criminal Minds

Pray about it.  
LOL.

Nuggets with  
Hi-C

Goodness!  
Who watches that?





photo by SAVANNAH LEE | The Bison  
Senior Jeremy Cohen trains at Downtown Church of Christ on Tuesday night in a class led by Impact 360.

## Students master different art types

by JAKOB BASTIN  
student writer

recognize the “art” aspect of martial arts.

“If you’re considering going into martial arts just to learn how to fight, then I would suggest maybe going about it in a different way, because it is an art,” Loveland said. “And as a form of art, I think it deserves more consideration than just a way to learn how to beat people up.”

Senior Jeremy Cohen said he has been participating in martial arts since he was 5 years old, studying Tae Kwon Do predominately. Cohen said he has been training and sparring at Downtown Church of Christ in classes lead by Impact 360, a martial arts-based mentoring organization.

Cohen said the practice of martial arts is a lifestyle with lofty physical demands.

“Physically, it’s a tough sport,” Cohen said. “It’s challenging to just stand up and exercise for that long. The biggest thing is pursuing perfect technique, which is impossible to reach. And there are constantly new techniques to learn.”

Both Loveland and Cohen said the payoff is worth the cost for those who want to give any form of martial arts a shot.

“It’s hard to explain how much of a benefit martial arts has been,” Cohen said. “It has helped to highlight all my personal strengths and improve some of my shortcomings. The discipline and mental toughness that I’ve gained has been huge for me.”

Loveland said he encourages others to try martial arts.

“I would highly recommend it to anyone who is seeking to improve their balance, coordination and physical and mental toughness,” Loveland said.

The various disciplines of martial arts have been practiced for thousands of years.

For many who grew up in the 1990s, martial arts were synonymous with the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and the Power Rangers. For some, practicing martial arts is simply a hobby or sport, but for these Harding students, it’s a lifestyle.

Freshman Richard Loveland said he has been doing Shotokan karate for eight years and has recently earned his second black belt of the 10 offered by the discipline. Loveland said utilizing balance and control are keys to achieving success in the sport of karate.

“Karate as a whole tries to be very balanced compared to other martial arts,” Loveland said. “There’s a balance between the amount of certain techniques we use like kicks versus hand techniques. We try to strike a balance in our footwork, the way we move on the dojo floor. So it’s a lot about balance and a lot about control.”

Loveland said the desire to learn self-defense initially drove him to practice the sport, but the appreciation he has gained for the art of karate is what kept his interest in the sport throughout the years.

Loveland said he practices karate while he is home from Harding, and he hopes to broaden his knowledge by learning and practicing martial arts other than karate.

Loveland said he believes martial arts are a valuable and rewarding practice for others to consider taking up. However, he said he encourages those who enter the sport to

## Harding digs into Israel’s past

by MATT RYAN  
asst. sports editor

Each year since summer of 2000, Dr. Dale Manor, professor of Bible and archeology, has brought groups of students and professors from a number of universities with him to the Beth-Shemesh excavation site.

Beth-Shemesh was the main town on the south side of the valley about 12 miles west of Jerusalem where Samson lived during Old Testament times.

“The most amazing thing about the trip was when I finally dug up my first piece of pottery,” said Harding graduate Ben Johnson, who spent his summer of 2010 at Harding University in Greece and spent a week working in the ongoing archaeological excavation. “I knew that it hasn’t been seen or held in thousands of years. To my demise, I found out that finding a broken piece of pottery was not uncommon. We would empty buckets

upon buckets of broken pottery. But when I think about it, how many other people in the world have had the chance to dig on an archaeology site in Israel?”

Students from across the country join the dig.

“Most of the people who go with me are just people from other places, such as teachers and faculty members from York College and Faulkner University,” Manor said. “One year, the HUG program came in the summer and they excavated there for a week, but last year I had I think one student who came with me, and the maximum I’ve ever had with me from Harding was three or four.”

Although a rewarding experience, excavation is neither glamorous nor easy, Manor said. Volunteers wake up at about 4:30 each morning in order to arrive at the site of the dig before sunrise. Once on location, the team sweeps up and prepares for the day’s work. As the sun begins to peak above the horizon, members of the crew utilize

the good light to photograph artifacts of pottery, tools, buildings and whatever else has been recently uncovered. Excavation begins at about 8 a.m. and continues until the day’s first break, usually between 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Afterward, workers dig until 1 p.m., when they leave for the day to eat lunch. At 3 p.m. it is time to clean the artifacts before they “read the pottery,” determining the age, origins and other information surrounding each piece.

Many Harding students and professors who have spent time at Beth-Shemesh with Manor, such as Dr. Philip Thompson, associate professor of Bible, said they gained a new appreciation for archaeology after the trip.

“Digging is hard work that demands mental concentration and physical stamina,” Thompson said. “Thus, I gained a much greater appreciation for the artifacts that find their way to museums. Standing before display cases at museums in Athens,

London, Istanbul or D.C., I now wonder, ‘How many years of back-breaking work were expended to uncover that find?’”

Manor said he plans to excavate again this summer from June 10 to July 5, although no students are currently signed up to come with him.

“I don’t really recommend anyone should go if they don’t really want to go, because it’s a lot of work,” Manor said. “But most people go with an increased appreciation of what archaeology is. I mean, it’s thrilling to find something that has not been exposed for 3,000 years and be almost the first, if not the first, to look at it and touch it and take it out of the ground. I mean, that’s just, wow. That’s hard to beat.”

Students who are interested in joining Manor this summer to excavate at Beth-Shemesh have until April 15 to sign up. Manor said to contact him by email or visiting his office.

## Sophomore plays games with fire

Original talent put to good use as fundraiser for Downtown Church

by JORDAN HONEYCUTT  
student writer

Sophomore Landon Belcher spends his free time doing something most people would never think to attempt, juggling flaming torches.

Belcher said he learned this hobby from a man named Jeff Plake who attends The Hills Church of Christ in Belcher’s hometown of Keller, Texas.

Belcher said Plake put on a performance at his home church and picked him as a volunteer for one of his acts.

“I was really drawn to that,” Belcher said. “He rode around on his unicycle with me on his shoulders, and that was pretty exciting.”

According to Belcher, Plake uses his talent of juggling fire as an opportunity to give inspirational and spiritual lessons. Belcher said that is what he wants to do.

“It’s unique, so it’s a really great way to get people’s attention and talk about my faith,” Belcher said. “It’s really easy to just slip stuff in while you are performing.”

Belcher said he started by learning to ride the unicycle and then continued on by learning to juggle balls, clubs and then eventually torches.

Belcher has recently taken part in the Downtown Church of Christ’s project, “Investing in the Journey.” The church gave away money to church members to organize individual events or fundraisers to help the church raise more money to fund church-sponsored trips. He is using his talents by performing for children’s birthday parties for a fee that will go back to the Downtown Church of Christ.

“There was a long time that it was pretty much a selfish thing, and it’s still sort of tough pride-wise,” Belcher said. “But I think serving people is a great way to cut your pride down, so that is what I’m trying to do.”

Belcher occasionally practices his torch juggling outside on Harding’s campus. He said he tries not to draw a crowd but sometimes there is no way around it.

“It is a very strange sight but I definitely think it is cool,” onlooker senior Whitney Dixon said. “There is someone here on Harding’s campus just juggling fire.”

Sophomore Emily Nutt, who also saw Belcher juggling, said he had drawn a crowd of about 20 people when she found Belcher.

“It was so unexpected,” Nutt, said.

“The things you happen upon at Harding can be crazy sometimes.”

Both Dixon and Nutt said they came upon Belcher during their club, Chi Omega Pi’s, “Hunger Games” scavenger hunt function.

They said they needed a picture of fire for the hunt and just happened to find him on campus practicing juggling flames.

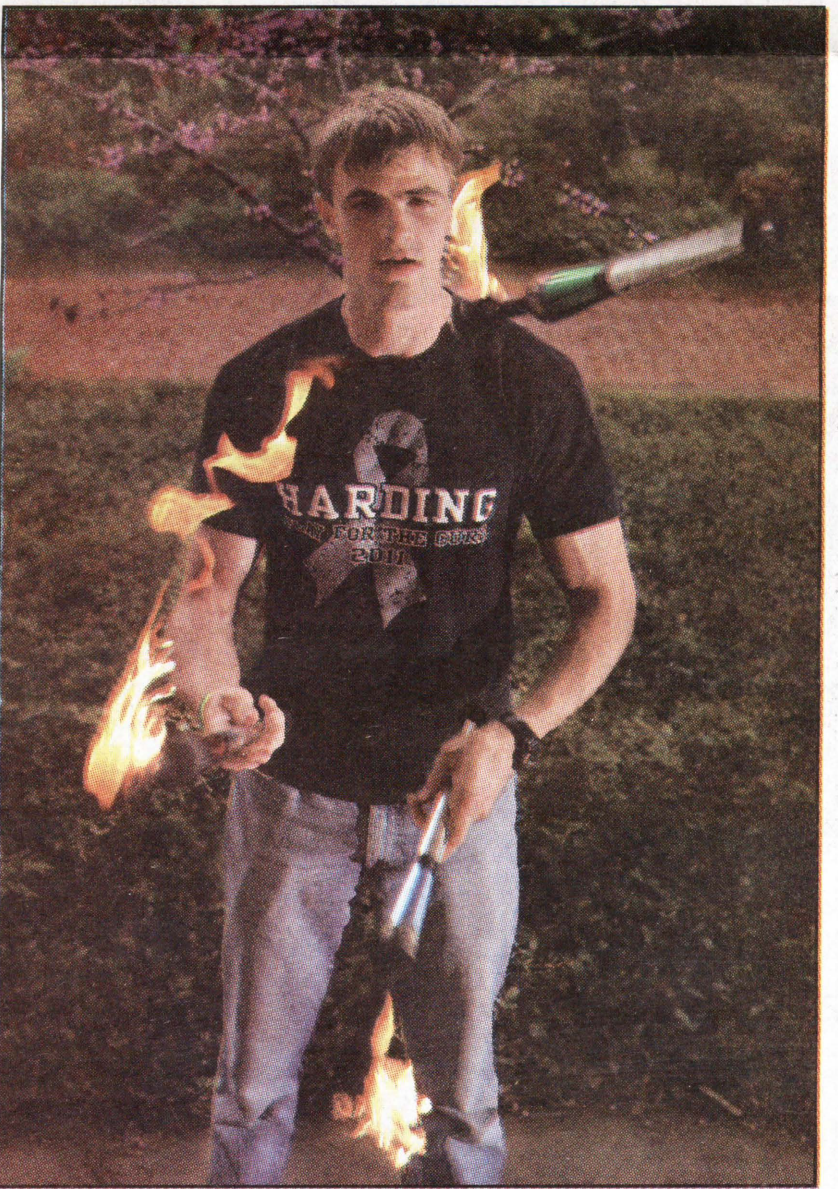
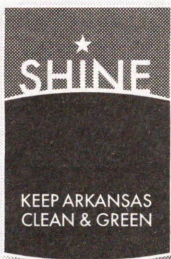


photo by ASHEL PARSONS | The Bison  
Sophomore Landon Belcher uses fire juggling to reach out to people and share his faith.

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## Start off spring with the latest, hottest albums to hit shelves

**Over the next few weeks, several highly anticipated albums are slated for release. As the spring weather settles in, try these albums out for your front lawn study sessions:**

### Happy to you

by Miike Snow

The group's self-titled 2009 debut album included such hits as "Animal" and "Black and Blue." Stepping outside of the dance tracks of their first album, Snow's second album reaches beyond that genre to create a style of "orchotronica," which combines classical orchestral music with dance beats. The album is set to hit stores March 27.

### Love Is a Four Letter Word

by Jason Mraz

Mraz's highly anticipated fourth album hits stores April 17. With songs like "I Won't Give Up," the album sticks to Mraz's original and soulful sound. The album's 12 tracks also include some unique features such as Mraz's cover of Luc and the Lovington's "The Freedom Song."

### The Hunger Games Soundtrack

by Various Artists

Just as there is much anticipation over the film's upcoming release, so should there be about the release of the album. Besides the highly popular Taylor Swift/The Civil Wars mash-up, "Safe and Sound," the album includes many other popular artists such as Arcade Fire and The Decemberists. The album's set release is today.

### Changed

by Rascal Flatts

For country music fans, April 3 cannot come fast enough. Rascal Flatts' 10th album includes their hit single, "Banjo," already a top 10 hit on the iTunes country charts. The band also announced that the deluxe album will be released on the same date and will have four additional tracks, including "Friday Can't Come Fast Enough."

### A Wasteland Companion

by M. Ward

Perhaps better known for his duo work with Zoëy Deschanel in their band She & Him, Ward's second solo album is set to hit stores April 10. On the 12-track album, Ward collaborates with some well-known names including Deschanel and Sonic Youth's Steve Shelley.

### Port of Tomorrow

by The Shins

After a five-year hiatus, The Shins are back. The band's fourth album, "Port of Tomorrow," was released Tuesday, March 20. The 10-track album is being released under lead singer James Mercer's new label via Columbia Records, Aural Apothecary. Despite the more poppish sound of the album, the band sticks to its indie roots.

### Silent Hour/ Golden Mile EP

by Daniel Rossen

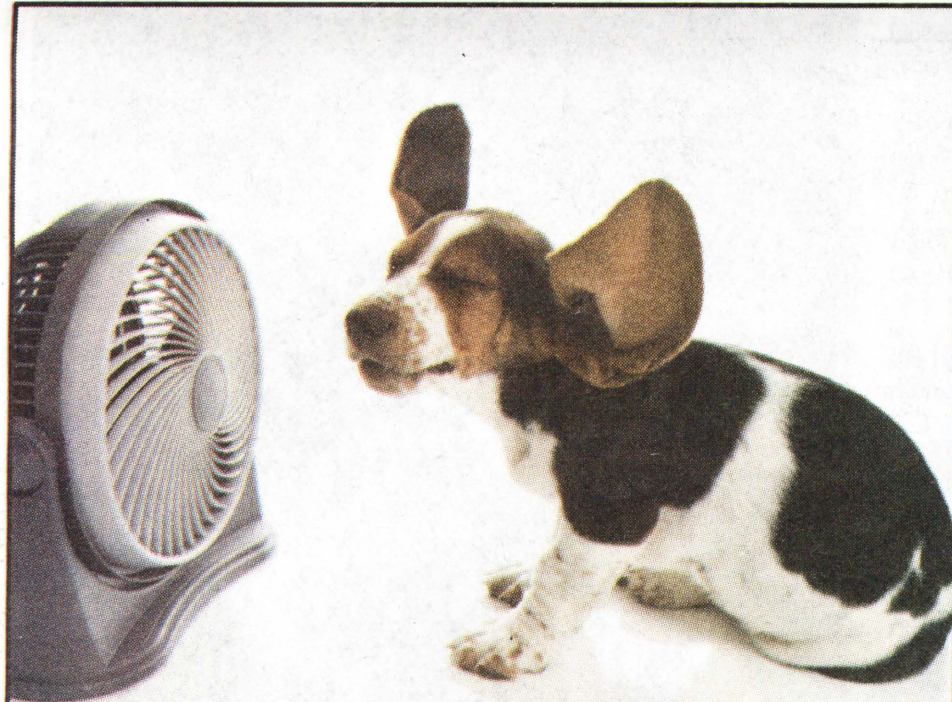
Daniel Rossen of Grizzly Bear is released his first solo work Tuesday, March 20. The release is similar in style to typical Grizzly Bear work with its soft woodwind/indie folk sound. However, Rossen's song writing abilities allow the album to stand on its own. Songs featured on the EP include "Saint Nothing" and "Silent Song."

Written by EMILY CHAFFIN  
student writer

Graphic by HENRIQUE RUIZ  
graphic designer

## Congrats to our photographer Chaney Mitchell on her engagement to Charlie Monan

-Best of Luck from the Bison Staff



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## Sudoku

		6		7	2			1
			6		3			
		8	4					
8	9	2			4			
	4				6		8	
					7	2		
	8	7				9		
			9	3			7	
3						5		6

**CONTEST:** Win a free Sudoku book by being the first person to bring the completed puzzle to the Bison office TODAY (Friday)

## CHECK OUT ON THE LINK

College of Pharmacy's NCPA places in top 3 for national video contest by AERIAL WHITING

Lacrosse club kicks off new season by LEXI STUTZMAN



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